

## Volume 1, Issue 2

January—March  
2008Maricopa County Animal  
Care and Control

## Trailin' Tails Newsletter

## Uno por Uno 2008 Coming to 85008



One of the many dogs that has passed through MCACC's doors looking for a forever home— he got one!

There are thousands of homeless and lost animals in Maricopa County posing a health and safety threat to the communities in which they live. Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) strives to reduce the dangers and nuisances caused by irresponsible pet ownership and to protect all pets from abuse, neglect and homelessness. The best way to do that is to educate pet owners about responsible pet ownership, spaying and neutering, the leash law, vaccinations, and pet licensing.

MCACC devised a plan to "saturate" high-risk areas 'one by one' with increased outreach, spay/neuter, vaccination, enforcement and education efforts so that licensing compliance is increased, and dog bites and impoundments are reduced. Aptly named, 'Uno por Uno,' this project was designed to reach neighborhoods one by one, serve families one by one and to save animals one by one.



This year, in partnership with Maddie's Pet Rescue Project, Arizona Humane Society, PETCO and several other leading animal welfare organizations, MCACC will provide free or low-cost spay/neuter services, vaccination clinics and pet behavior education to the residents in the zip code 85008.

85008 is being targeted for many reasons: the

area has 1,312 dogs running stray; 10,182 dogs are unlicensed; and 250 dogs bites were reported, the second highest in the county!

During last year's Uno por Uno campaign more than 600 spay/neuter surgeries were performed, 1,821 Rabies vaccinations were administered and license compliance increase by 350%. In addition, bilingual educational materials were distributed regarding responsible pet ownership.

Visit [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov) for the latest information on this year's Uno por Uno or see page 4.

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## Pet Tips - Dog Safety In Public

While giving your pet proper shelter, food and water, and quality time at home is important, there are several things you can do to keep your furry family member safe and happy when the two of you go out in public as well.

Maricopa County law says that when your pet is outside the confines of your home or fenced property, he must be on a leash at all times. The leash should be no longer than six feet, so that you can maintain control of his movements. This length helps you be able to guide him away from danger on short notice if necessary. Even if your dog is very well trained to obey your commands, it is not only illegal but unwise to let your dog run loose. A dog, no matter how well trained, is still an instinctive creature, and all of your words and shouts could very well go unheard if his interest is piqued by a scent, a person, or another dog. Needless to say, a distracted dog doesn't always heed traffic or dangerous animals, and could very well get himself seriously hurt or killed.

It is also important to have proper identification on

your dog's collar to increase his chances of being returned to you if he should break free and become lost. Your dog must have his Maricopa County issued dog license on him at all times. It's also a good idea to have your dog microchipped as it provides even more protection. Most veterinarian offices and animal shelters across the country can scan and read microchips, helping many lost dogs return home.

Keeping your dog current on his vaccinations also protects him from disease if he encounters a sick or unvaccinated dog. It also ensures that he won't transmit a disease to another dog.

Another part of being a responsible pet owner and good citizen is picking up after your dog. Not only is it sanitary and polite, but in most cities it's also required by law.

Following these basic rules can ensure that you and your dog enjoy many safe and fun outings.



Search the web with [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and money from Yahoo advertisers will go to FACC's – Friends of Animal Care & Control without you spending a dime!



One of the many dogs that have come through our facilities needing a new home.

## Animal First Aid Kit:

First Aid Book

Gauze pads

Bandages

Cotton Tipped Applicators

Muzzle

Cold Pack

Antiseptic Wipes

Disposable Gloves

## Pet From MCACC Has A New Home

An emaciated dog was found running the streets near 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Indian School back in October. A Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) Field Officer was called in. Upon arrival, he caught the dog, and despite her



Bela, when she was first adopted.

fear, she immediately started to wag her tail in greeting. It was at this point that the officer noticed horrible scars on her thin little body. Bela, as she's now called, was brought into the shelter where she was examined and deemed healthy, despite the scarring and emaciation. In spite of her obvious suffering, Bela's sweet nature prevailed and she won hearts all over the shelter, asking for love



Bela, six weeks later, 13 pounds heavier.

and affection from whoever walked by her kennel. Bela's scars could have been caused from a knife or something hot that burnt her. The story behind her injuries and low weight will never be known. Bela got a new home with a family who saw her and immediately fell in love. Bela was adopted out at 29 pounds and has since gained 13 more. She is close to her ideal weight. Her new owner says, "Next to chewing on her Nylabone's, her favorite thing to do is to crawl in my lap and sleep. Every night while we watch TV she'll crawl right in my lap and sleep like a baby. We are grateful to have her and will make sure no one will ever hurt her again."

## Living With Feral Cats

MCACC recognizes that free-roaming cats are an issue in our community and is committed to effectively and humanely controlling the problem. We have taken a proactive stand in the way we believe feral cats should be handled and controlled. The traditional ways of dealing with feral cats don't work. The "catch and kill" method of population control (trap a cat, bring it to a shelter, ask that the cat be euthanized), has not reduced the number of feral cats. The cat may be gone, but now there is room for another cat to move in.

By creating a hole in a neighborhood feral cat colony, it encourages fighting, spraying of territory and breeding. In addition, female cats in distressed colonies tend to produce more offspring than those in stable colonies. So "catch and kill" actually makes the problem worse.



In examining effective programs across the country, MCACC has concluded that the most effective solution is a comprehensive program that includes: Community education about spay/neuter and keeping tame cats indoors; Adoption of tame strays into new homes; Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) to managed colonies for feral cats.

Through TNR, cats are humanely trapped and sterilized. They are taken to a veterinarian where they are spayed or neutered. Feral cats have their left ear "tipped" so people will recognize that the cat is sterilized. Feral, therefore unadoptable, cats are placed back into the environment in which they are living. Volunteer caretakers provide food, water, and clean, unobtrusive shelters for the cats. Eventually, through natural attrition, the colony dies out. Any stray or tame, adoptable cats found in the colony are removed and adopted into homes.

Many people ask what's the difference between a stray cat and a feral cat. A stray cat is an un-owned animal that you see in the neighborhood that is friendly and enjoys human contact. A feral cat has had little or no human contact during its natural life.



TNR stabilizes the population. It is more effective and less expensive than attempts at extermination. It eliminates or reduces annoying behaviors like spraying, yowling and fighting. It is the humane thing to do.

To learn more about TNR, call the Arizona Cats Association Team, AZCATS, at (480) 968-4TNR to learn more information or visit their web site at [www.azcats.org](http://www.azcats.org).

## Profile of MCACC's Medical Outreach Coordinator

Mark Soto, Maricopa County Animal Care and Control's (MCACC) Medical Outreach Coordinator, has always been surrounded by animals. Growing up, his family had a menagerie of turtles, birds, fish, and even a duck.



A number of his family members were in law enforcement, so it's no surprise that Mark followed the same track. But in his case, he combined it with his love of animals, and became an Animal Control Officer in Pima County, Arizona in 1994. He spent his first three years as a field officer, impounding strays and handling bite cases. Then he became a Welfare Investigation Officer, dealing with animal cruelty and neglect cases. During that time, he put together the first such case in Pima County that could be treated as a felony, resulting in two years of jail time for the abuser.

After seven years as a welfare investigation officer, Mark transitioned into enforcement operations, which was more administrative in nature, including developing department procedures and outreach to the community. He felt strongly that educating and involving the public more in animal welfare was a key component to improving the lives of animals.

So he strived to be proactive, rather than just reactive,

making himself available to school and community groups, to talk about how to help the animals. In so doing, he hoped also to shatter the myth of the department being "just a dogcatcher."

In 2006, Mark's wife, Linda (also a Pima County Animal Control Officer), took a job as Shelter Services Division Manager at MCACC, and Mark followed her to Phoenix. Shortly thereafter, a new position opened up at MCACC—Medical Outreach Coordinator—and Mark was hired for the job.

It has turned into a bigger job than he expected, but that is a good thing. Nearly two years ago, MCACC launched its No-cost Spay/Neuter Voucher program, with hopes of taking a bite out of the pet overpopulation problem. Working with veterinarians throughout the community, the Voucher program provides no-cost spay or neuter surgeries for pets. There are also package options which add on licenses and low-cost rabies vaccinations. Largely through Marks' tireless efforts (such as streamlining the application process, and getting the word out), the Voucher program has already become one of the leading spay/neuter programs in the nation. For more information on MCACC's program, please see the article on page 7.

## No-Cost Voucher Program

We are excited to announce the success of the No-Cost Spay/Neuter Voucher Program!

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control's **No-Cost** Spay/Neuter Voucher Program is just 18 months old and it is already the nation's largest and most effective public spay/neuter program of its kind! Currently, the program is processing over 1,000 surgeries each month and maintaining an 80% redemption rate for the vouchers it issues. By providing a **FREE spay/neuter option to the public** MCACC is ensuring that residents of Maricopa County have no excuse but to get their animals fixed.

As we work to save the homeless animals of today, we must be **working to reduce our overpopulation crisis for the animals of tomorrow.** According to animal welfare and animal control professionals across the nation, the ONLY humane and effective way for a community to address its overpopulation crisis is by offering low-cost, convenient and inclusive spay/neuter programs.

That is why FACC's has made the commitment to fund MCACC's revolutionary No-Cost Spay/Neuter Voucher Program. **In order to continue funding this valuable and necessary program we need your support!**

The average cost for surgeries processed through this program is just \$61. MCACC must process at least 20,000 surgeries each year to achieve the necessary number of total surgeries performed in the community to impact the Valley's pet population. This means that as MCACC gets closer to reaching this achievable goal, the more funding we need to sustain it!

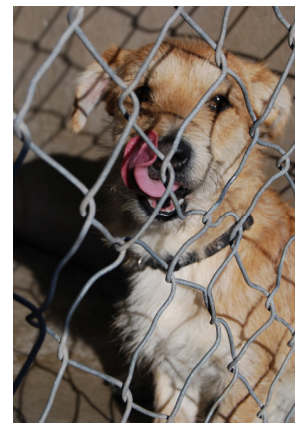
By making a donation of \$25 or more to FACC's, **you will be making a significant and direct contribution towards ending the euthanasia of adoptable dogs and cats** in Maricopa County! We look forward to receiving your contribution to this long-term solution to Maricopa County's pet overpopulation crisis. Visit [www.azfaccs.org](http://www.azfaccs.org) or call 602-840-2843



One of the many cats MCACC has housed hoping to find a forever home.

## Spay and neuter your pets

*Get your dogs and cats spayed or neutered! MCACC gets in over 50,000 animals a year, many of them unwanted kittens and puppies. These innocent animals have little chance of survival in our shelters—they need too much care. Please help us stop unnecessary euthanasia—spay and neuter your pets!*



MCACC took in over 40,000 dogs last year. Please adopt!



## Schedule of Events

- Jan 12—Mobile Pet Adoption Bus; 6902 E. Greenway Parkway
- Jan 14—National Dress Up Your Pet Day
- Jan 18—20—Mobile Pet Adoption Bus; 10300 S. Miller Road, Buckeye
- Jan 26—Mobile Pet Adoption Bus at Anthem Community Park
- Jan 26—Rabies Vaccination Clinic; \$20, Tempe Library, 9:00—1:00

### COMING UP

- February is National Responsible Pet Owner Month
- Feb 17—Heart to Heart Pet-A-Rama; 3rd Street & McDowell Road, Phoenix
- March 2008—MCACC's New West Animal Care Center Grand Opening
- March 1—Franciscan Renewal Adoptions; 5802 E. Lincoln, Paradise Valley
- March 15—16 Pet Fest; West World

## JANUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Hope for the Animals Events
13	14 National Dress Up Your Pet Day	15	16	17	18 Wags for Wishes	19 Wags for Wishes
20 Wags for Wishes	21	22	23	24	25	26 Rabies Vaccination Clinic
27	28	29	30	31		

## Uno por Uno Vaccination and Spay/Neuter Clinic Dates

**February 5, 12, 23, 26 —Rabies Vaccination Clinic @ PETCO 4535 E. Thomas Ave., 9 a.m.—1 p.m.**

**February 9, 16, 23 —Spay/Neuter Clinic @ PETCO 4535 E. Thomas Ave. 7 a.m.**

**March 4, 15 —Rabies Vaccination Clinic @ Fry's 3036 E. Thomas Ave., 9 a.m.—1 p.m.**

**March 15, 22 —Spay/Neuter Clinic @ Fry's 3036 E. Thomas Ave, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.**

**March 8, 11, 12, 13, 18, 25, 29 — Rabies Vaccination Clinic @ PECTO 4535 E. Thomas Ave., 9 a.m.—1 p.m.**

**March 1, 8, 11, 12, 13, 29 —Spay/Neuter Clinic @ Fry's 3036 E. Thomas Ave., 7 a.m.**



\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Special thanks to pet lover \*  
 \* Lori S. who sewed over 100 \*  
 \* pet pads so our homeless \*  
 \* animals do not have to lay on \*  
 \* the cold floor. Instead, they \*  
 \* can be warm and comfort- \*  
 \* able while they are in our \*  
 \* shelters! It's people like Lori \*  
 \* that give our animals love \*  
 \* and comfort. Thanks Lori! \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*





## Volunteer of the Month— Joseph Gonzales

Ask anyone who works or volunteers at Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) about volunteer Joseph Gonzales and you'll hear how committed he is to helping animals. Today at age sixteen he is currently working to finish his high school degree through home schooling and has been bit by the volunteer bug. He spends his days helping in our west shelter. Joseph has received numerous recommendations from MCACC staff and volunteers for nomination as one of our community's greatest volunteers.

He volunteers just about every day in the shelter – he has accumulated over 800 hours giving his precious time to the county's misplaced, injured and homeless animals, all without pay. Anything that is needed he will enthusiastically do: feeding & watering animals, cleaning kennels, walking dogs, showing animals to potential adopters, answering questions of the public, assisting in vaccinating sick or injured animals, helping families reunite with their lost pet – you name it – Joseph has done it and did it well! He has made an impact in the shelter and helps us meet our adoption goals which means saving animals each day he is in the shelter volunteering.

We don't know what we would do without him!

## Donation Drive

**Any time is a good time to hold a donation drive for the animals in our shelter. We are always in need of blankets, towels, canned food, leashes and toys.**

## IMPORTANT

### UPCOMING VOLUNTEER CHANGES!!!

Once the new year hits MCACC will be revitalizing the volunteer program to get ready for the new shelter which will be in operation March 2008!

- More trainings will be offered including advanced animal handling and adoption counseling.
- Both new incoming volunteers and all current volunteers will be trained to assist with adoptions along with socializing and spot-cleaning kennels.

The main reason for these added trainings are so that all volunteers can help us meet our goals in increasing adoptions and ultimately saving more lives! Continue to volunteer as usual as your help is priceless. We will alert you via e-mail when the new training classes begin and hope you will attend!

To reduce costs and save money for other programs, like spay/neuter, we offer this newsletter electronically. To sign up, please visit us at : [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)



MCACC took in over 12,000 cats last year. Please give one a good home!

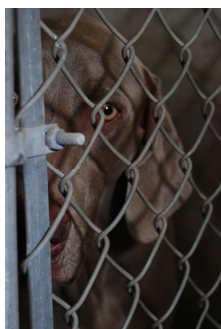
## Become a Volunteer

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) is in need of volunteers to spend valuable time helping homeless and misplaced animals in our community. MCACC receives up 200 homeless animals each and every day! There is a rewarding and dynamic volunteer experience waiting for you. Whether you are interested in walking dogs, petting kittens, or assisting with adoptions there is a way you can help!

Call our Volunteer Coordinator at (602) 506-8133 or email her at: [erinmaupin@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:erinmaupin@mail.maricopa.gov)

MCACC wants thank our Uno por Uno partners:





Save a life and become forever loved— come find your new furry friend at one of our shelters.

## Rabies Clinic

**Specials: \$20**

### Cat Adoption Center

—Wed—Fri 11:00—5:00

Sat & Sun Noon—4:00

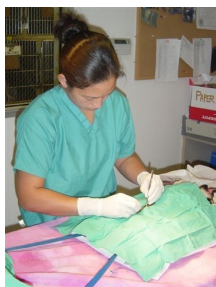
### West and East

#### Shelters

Sundays Noon—4:00

Mondays 9:00—11:00

Tuesdays 9:00—11:00



Help us control the pet overpopulation problem. Get you pet spayed or neutered!

## Maddie's Pet Rescue Project in Maricopa County Year Ending Dec. 2006

In order to facilitate the data collection process and assure consistent reporting across agencies, a group of animal welfare industry leaders developed nationally recognized definitions for the health and behavior of dogs and cats, i.e. healthy, treatable and unhealthy/untreatable. Maddie's Fund was a leader in the development of these definitions and has therefore required its grant funded Community Projects, like those in Maricopa County, to adopt and utilize these definitions. As an active member of the Maddie's Pet Rescue and Spay/Neuter Projects, MCACC has followed suit. The definitions, however, are not meant to define the outcome for each animal entrusted to our care. For more information about these definitions, please visit [www.asilomaraccords.org](http://www.asilomaraccords.org).



MARICOPA COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL	Dog	Cat	Total
<b>BEGINNING SHELTER COUNT (January 1, 2006)</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>802</b>
<b>INTAKE (Live Dogs &amp; Cats Only)</b>			
<i>From the Public</i>			
Healthy	5,552	1,571	<b>7,123</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	14,552	5,004	<b>19,556</b>
Treatable – Manageable	8,314	2,691	<b>11,005</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	12,562	3,011	<b>15,573</b>
<b>Subtotal Intake from the Public</b>	<b>40,980</b>	<b>12,277</b>	<b>53,257</b>
<i>Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Coalition</i>			
Healthy	0	0	<b>0</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	0	0	<b>0</b>
Treatable – Manageable	0	0	<b>0</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Subtotal Intake from Incoming Transfers from Orgs within Coalition</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Incoming Transfers from Organizations outside Coalition</i>			
<b>Subtotal Intake from Incoming Transfers from Orgs outside Coalition</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>From Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia</i>			
<b>Subtotal Intake from Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL INTAKE</b>	<b>40,981</b>	<b>12,277</b>	<b>53,258</b>
<b>ADOPTIONS (only dogs and cats adopted by the public)</b>			
Healthy	4,376	1,184	<b>5,560</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	2,883	513	<b>3,396</b>
Treatable – Manageable	479	84	<b>563</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL ADOPTIONS</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>9,519</b>
<b>OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations within Coalition</b>			
Healthy	519	259	<b>778</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	968	1,294	<b>2,262</b>
Treatable – Manageable	633	222	<b>855</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	30	13	<b>43</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Orgs within Coalition</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>1,788</b>	<b>3,938</b>
<b>OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations outside Coalition</b>			
Healthy	214	77	<b>291</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	819	489	<b>1,308</b>
Treatable – Manageable	839	144	<b>983</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Orgs outside Coalition</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>2,582</b>
<b>RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN</b>	<b>6,213</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>6,344</b>
<b>DOGS &amp; CATS EUTHANIZED</b>			
Healthy	0	0	<b>0</b>
Treatable – Rehabilitatable	5,640	3,789	<b>9,429</b>
Treatable – Manageable	4,498	1,126	<b>5,624</b>
Unhealthy & Untreatable	12,282	2,581	<b>14,863</b>
<b>TOTAL EUTHANASIA</b>	<b>22,420</b>	<b>7,496</b>	<b>29,916</b>
<b>DIED OR LOST IN SHELTER/CARE</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>247</b>
<b>ENDING SHELTER COUNT (December 31, 2006)</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1,513</b>

## License Your Dog

Did you know that you must have your dog licensed if you live in Maricopa County? The law requires that all dogs over the age of three months have a license and rabies vaccination. The law covers all of unincorporated Maricopa County, Maricopa County, the town of Queen Creek and all other municipalities within Maricopa County, with the exception of Fountain Hills and Native American reservations. An application for a license must be made within 15 days of getting your dog vaccinated. Residents new to Maricopa County and new dog owners must purchase a dog license within 30 days. A penalty fee will be assessed for late applications. The term of the license is based on the month and day of the most current rabies vaccination recorded at MCACC and is valid for one calendar year.



Besides it being a law, there are many good reasons to get your dog licensed and ensure it is always on his collar. If your dog gets lost, he gets a free ride home. MCACC staff will attempt to bring your dog home to you immediately, saving you a trip to our Center. If lost, the first 24 hours at our center are free. Your licensed dog also gets a longer care period at MCACC centers. We will exhaust every option we have to contact you using the information in our database, as well as provide this information to Pets 911. With an up-to-date collar, if your dog bites someone, he may be eligible for home quarantine instead of in our facility or a veterinary hospital.

Before you can license your dog, you must have proof of a rabies vaccination. MCACC offers rabies vaccinations as does your veterinarian. You can get a dog license by coming into any of our three locations or you can download an application on line at [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov) and mail it to:

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control Licensing Division  
P.O. Box 52887 Phoenix, AZ 85072

Annual dog licenses cost \$16 for sterile dogs and \$40 for unaltered dogs. Late fees are \$2 a month for sterile dogs and \$4 a month for unaltered dogs. MCACC now offers a senior discount to people who are 65 or older. The senior citizen fee is \$6. However, there is a two dog maximum for this discount.

To prove your dog is sterile you need a sterilization certificate from the veterinarian who performed the surgery or examined your dog to verify the surgery, or previous license information showing spay/neuter status.

## Importance of Spay Neuter

Each year, millions of animals are euthanized in shelters across the country. Most of these animals are happy and healthy and would make great companions if only there were enough homes. Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) is dedicated to reducing the number of unwanted pets through spaying and neutering.

Besides reducing pet overpopulation, these sterilization procedures provide many benefits, both for pets and their owners:

- Keeps your pet healthy, reducing costly medical bills and helping your pet to live longer
- Reduces the chances your pet will get lost, since he or she won't have the urge to roam and seek a mate
- Helps prevent behavior problems, such as aggression, spraying, and marking territory

MCACC has launched a Voucher Program, which provides no-cost spay and neuter surgeries to pets of people in living in Maricopa County. For a nominal fee, a dog license and/or a rabies vaccination can be added. Once an application has been approved, and payment received (if applicable), we will issue a voucher to the pet owner.

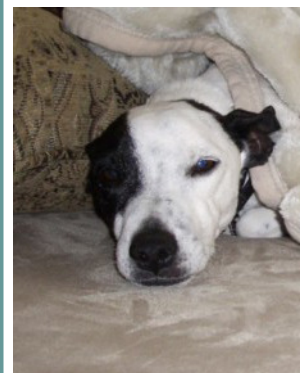
With that voucher, a surgery appointment must be scheduled with one of our contracted veterinarians identified on the voucher, to occur within 90 days of the issue date. For an application and more information, please visit [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov).

In the past year, the number of vouchers issued has increased more than ten-fold, and the redemption rate is consistently over 80%, one of the best in the nation. But the real success of MCACC's No-Cost Voucher Program will be seen over a longer period, when the number of unwanted pets coming into shelters gradually decreases in direct correlation to the reduced number of dogs and cats being born.

Please help us save lives by spaying or neutering your pet, and by encouraging others to do the same. It is especially important to spread the word about spay/neuter services provided through MCACC, as many people are not aware of what we offer. Nearly every day, several people come in to our shelters to surrender their pets, mostly because of behavior issues, not knowing that spaying or neutering can likely help. If you would like our Medical Outreach Coordinator, Mark Soto, to speak to your school or community group about spaying and neutering, please contact him at 602/506-2759.

### ***Tune in and catch our animals on TV and the radio!***

- Every Saturday on  
Channel 12 at 9:40  
a.m.
- Every other  
Thursday on  
Channel 12 at 1:35  
p.m.
- Every last Tuesday  
of the month on  
KOOL radio 94.5  
FM



**One of the lucky dogs to  
find a new home through  
MCACC this year.**





Visit one our Animal Care Centers!

West Valley Care Center    East Valley Care Center  
2323 S. 35th Ave.    2630 W. 8th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85009    Mesa, AZ 85201

Cat Adoption Center  
5231 N. 35th Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85017

Phone: 602-506-PETS (7387)

E-mail: [ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov)

We're on the web!

[www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)

MCACC's new approach to delivering animal care and control services reflects the delicate balance that exists between animal welfare and animal control. We strive to be proactive and offer programs to prevent problems before they occur. It is our vision to reduce the dangers and nuisances caused by irresponsible pet ownership and to protect pets from abuse, neglect and homelessness.

Our mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of people and pets in Maricopa County.

MCACC offers a multitude of services to assist you and your pets.

- Adoption of cats and dogs
- Spay/Neuter programs
- Licensing
- Rabies vaccinations
- Lost and found shelter care/stray dog pick up
- Opportunities to volunteer and become foster care givers



## Friends of Animal Care and Control

Our mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the special programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

P.O. Box 80739  
Phoenix, AZ 85060

602-626-5073

Visit us at: [www.azfaccs.org](http://www.azfaccs.org)

## Help Prevent Your Dog From Biting

Dogs are wonderful. They are toe warmers on a cool night, a happy face to greet us after a long day, givers of unconditional love, diggers of holes and sometimes... biters. That's right, biters. All dogs have the potential to bite. Last year in Maricopa County, close to 5,000 dog bites were reported.

It's important to understand why dogs bite. We need to remember that they are animals and it's what they sometimes do to communicate. They bite because they are scared. Dogs bite because they are protecting their territory, their owners or their babies. They bite because they are hurt or because they have been startled. Dogs bite because they want to be left alone.

It is your responsibility to help prevent your dog from ever biting. Spay or neuter your dog. It may make him calmer, healthier and less aggressive. You need to properly train your dog. Use positive training methods – rewards, not punishments. Teach your dog not to jump up. Train your dog to walk on a leash without pulling. Take your dog to obedience classes so you *both* know how to behave.



Condition your dog for the world. Socialize him by taking him out into different real world situations. Give your dog plenty of exercise. Do not encourage aggressive behavior. Make sure your dog has a special place he can retreat to where he feels safe. Supervise your dog around children at all times. It's not only how your dog acts, it's how a child may act with your dog.

Part of being a responsible pet owner is teaching your children the right way to play with their new pal. Sit down with your kids and go over the rules. Do not hug or kiss the dog on the face. This is the most common cause of face bites.

Do not pull on his ears, tail or fur. Do not wake a dog up while he is sleeping. Do not harass him while he is eating. Teach your children the right way to play with dogs – no wrestling or chasing games. Instead, play fetch or find hidden objects.

Children should be taught how to act around other dogs as well. Always ask a dog's owner permission to pet their dog and then hold your hand out to him. Use caution around dogs on leashes. They may feel restricted and cornered on a leash and bite. They also may feel extra protective of their owners.

Teach your children to be a tree if a strange dog approaches. Stand still, keep arms close to your sides, and do not make eye contact. This works for your own dog if he gets too frisky or aggressive as well.

Not all dogs will bite, but all dogs have the potential to bite. Keep your family and your dog safe by being a responsible owner... everyone will be happier for it.